

JAN 13 1962

## Acceptable Indoctrination

A committee appointed by Defense Secretary McNamara has been requested to report by July 1 on indoctrination programs in the armed services.

It is an impressive committee. Karl R. Bendetson, president of the Champion Paper Co., is chairman. Among the other members are Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, former chief of naval operations; General Alfred M. Gruenther, head of the American Red Cross; General Thomas D. White, former chief of staff of the Air Force; Thomas J. Watson, Jr., of International Business Machines, and President T. Keith Glennan of Case Institute. It unquestionably ranks as a blue ribbon committee.

Indoctrination in some form is recognized as a necessity of military life. The committee will seek to determine what form is effective and acceptable.

The case of retired Major General Edwin A. Walker did much to bring the indoctrination question to the forefront. He has been touring the country telling audiences that our military men are being muzzled when they attempt to warn against the dangers of communism. But Secretary McNamara has pointed out that General Walker was not relieved of his command in West Germany because of his views on the Reds. It was because he violated a clear Army regulation by telling men under his command what candidates they should vote for in U. S. elections. Any person who has served in the army is well acquainted with this regulation.

While this committee conducts its deliberations considerable heat may be engendered at hearings which a special Senate investigating committee will hold beginning January 23. Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi is chairman. Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina brought on the inquiry by a series of speeches and charges that civilian Pentagon officials had put the clamps on anti-Communist activities of military leaders. Some 200 speeches from more than 1,500 delivered by generals, admirals and officers of lesser rank in the military forces will be examined by the Senate committee. Senator Thurmond has contended that the Pentagon's censorship system consistently deleted material expressing strong anti-Communist statements.

There is general belief that this inquiry will bring out shortcomings over the years in the Pentagon's policies. The collapse of morale among many American prisoners of war in Korea is still strong in the memory. But what was responsible for this lack of morale is not fully understood. If either of the inquiries gets down to the prime causes, it will be very much worthwhile.

Judging from statements that have been made in recent months, some Americans believe only the generals and admirals can be trusted to lead the nation against the Communist threat. But we believe the vast majority agree with the following policy expressed by General Washington in his message to Maj. Gen. Daniel Morgan:

"It may be proper constantly and strongly to impress upon the Army that they are the mere agents of civil power."

General Washington's message could well serve the both committees in their study of the question of indoctrination and in preparing their recommendations. History contains all too many chapters in which military men misused the power which was given them. They need not go far from our own borders to find such examples.